

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

NEWS BRIEF

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Governor Releases Budget Recommendations

In his budget recommendations for fiscal year 2009, Governor Jon Huntsman recognized two areas of critical importance highlighted by the Utah Department of Corrections -- increased compensation for correctional officers and the need for additional facilities to house the state's growing inmate population.

First, Governor Huntsman allocated \$3 million in ongoing funds for recruitment and retention of correctional officers. With vacancies hovering around 130 officers and one-fourth of all correctional officers working overtime on any given day, DOC executive director Tom Patterson has made correctional officer pay a top priority this year. Pending legislative approval, the increased funds would be used to increase starting pay for new officers, as well as provide a career plan with built-in pay increases for all correctional officers.

Secondly, the governor's budget recommends \$77.3 million in one-time funding to construct two new pods at the Central Utah Correctional Facility. This investment would increase the total space in Gunnison by 480 beds once the facilities, a 288-bed unit and a 192-bed unit, come online in the next several years. Increasing the department's operational capacity is vital as the state's inmate population grows at a rate of about 230 offenders each year.

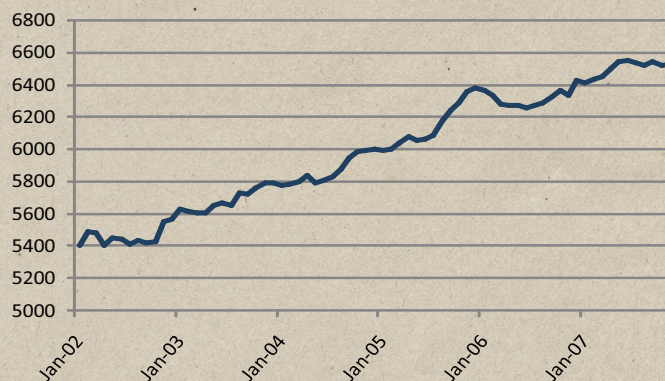
Overall, the governor's budget recommendations for the Department of Corrections represents a 13 percent increase over that authorized for fiscal year 2008. It also includes a recommended \$2.4 million to hire 32 additional full-time transportation and hospital security officers and \$7.6 million for a privatized parole violator center. Governor Huntsman also recommended a 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment for all state employees, as well as nearly \$3 million for discretionary salary increases.

Along with additional funds for public safety, human services and transportation infrastructures, the governor noted the investment in corrections signaled his desire to "ensure the safety and stability of our communities."

Prison Population

The graph below illustrates the average daily incarcerated count for the entire adult prison population of Utah. This includes inmates being housed in the Draper and Gunnison prisons, inmates in contracted jail beds throughout the state, as well as inmates in contract beds out of state. Along with indicating the current pattern of growth, this count is critical to projecting future housing demands for Corrections.

Average Daily Incarcerated Count
January 2002 through November 2007



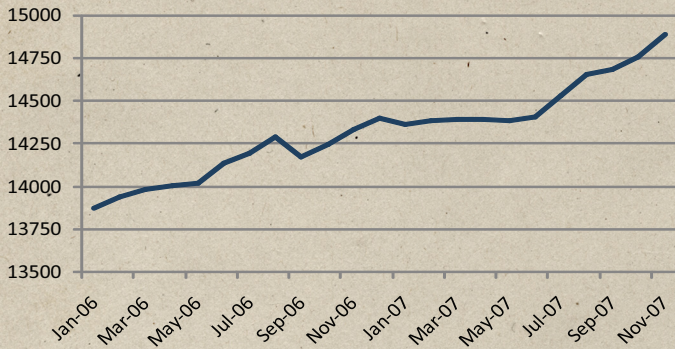
Adult Probation And Parole

Displayed graphically at the top of the following page, is a monthly count of probationers and parolees under supervision with the Department since January, 2006. During this last month of November, Corrections supervised approximately 14,890 offenders, with 11,164 of those offenders on probation and 3,726 on parole.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOM PATTERSON

AP&P Supervision Count
January 2006 through November 2007

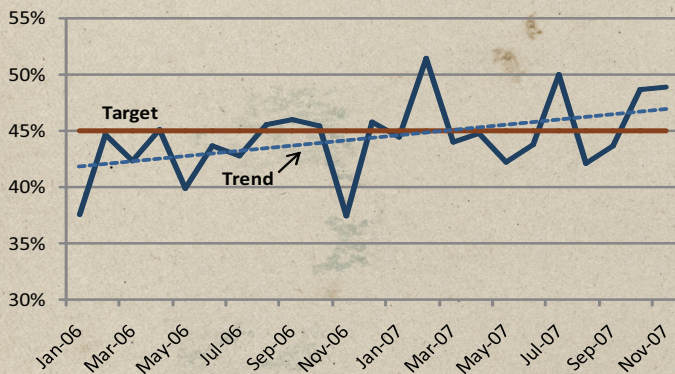


Level of Service Inventory (LSI)

Upon being sentenced into the custody of Corrections, each offender is subject to a variety of instruments, used to assess his or her individual risks and needs. One such instrument is the Level of Service Inventory (LSI), which assists in determining risk level, as well as provides information about treatment and programming needs. High-scoring offenders are considered higher risk, and will require more intensive services. Corrections re-administers the LSI at key points throughout an offender's period of incarceration and supervision. In the case of score reductions over time, Corrections can interpret a corresponding reduction in risk to the community posed by that offender.

The Department has a scorecard LSI reduction target of 45% of the total adult probation and parole population. As indicated in the following chart, there has been a steady increase in the trend of LSI score reductions over the last year and a half. This trend in score reduction means that the overall risk presented by this population has been declining over this same time period.

Percent of Probationers and Parolees with LSI Score Reduction

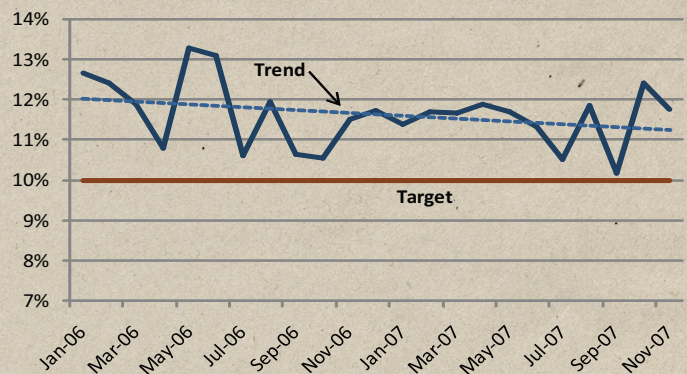


Urinalysis Monitoring

As a result of the substance abuse problems known to exist among the adult offender population, Corrections randomly tests its probationers and parolees for drug and alcohol use. As a condition of probation and parole, most offenders must agree to abstain from any drug or alcohol use while under supervision.

A scorecard measurement has been put in place by the Department to monitor what percent of the total probation and parole population tests positive for drugs or alcohol. Although it might seem ideal to have zero offenders testing positive, Corrections has identified a more realistic target of 10% of the total population tested. As demonstrated in the graphic below, as a whole, the offender population testing positive for substances has been above the 10% mark. However, the overall trend in percentage of positive urinalysis detection is moving downward. In an attempt to further reduce illicit drug use, Corrections is participating in a statewide collaboration with local substance abuse authorities to implement the Drug Offender Reform Act (DORA).

Percent of Probationers and Parolees with Positive Urinalysis



Correctional Officer Vacancies

As of November, 2007, the Utah Department of Corrections has 111 vacant Correctional Officer positions, down from 122 vacancies the month prior. This translates into a 12% vacancy rate in Correctional Officer posts statewide. Four of our officers left the Department during November, effecting a turnover rate of 0.43% for that month.

